



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE

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George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

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Homeland Security Director

- X The Illinois Office of Homeland Security recently hosted a meeting on behalf of Governor Tom Ridge's Homeland Security Office for FEMA Regions 5 and 7. Homeland security directors from those Midwest states met to discuss a number of issues including the new federal Department of Homeland Security and other efforts involving terrorism preparedness.
- X The Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) is preparing for federal fiscal year 2003 budget opportunities for homeland security funding. The ITTF is currently prioritizing Illinois' needs with varying amounts of funding in order to prepare for any situation. It is hoped that Congress will address the budget issues in January and that Illinois will receive grant monies this Spring.
- X Regional meetings for the Statewide Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System have been completed with the first statewide governing board meeting to be held this month.
- X The ITTF Communications Committee forwarded two recommendations to the full task force for approval. The first recommendation establishes a Governing Board which would oversee coordination of radio frequencies and rules for their use. Until a Governing Board is established, the second recommendation includes a set of rules defining the use of the VTAC and UTAC frequencies established by the FCC which will be used in the interim.

- X The ITTF Volunteers and Donations Committee created a document entitled “Community Guidelines for a Spontaneous Volunteers Plan” which was approved by the task force and will be disseminated to local governments and associations in the future.
- X President Bush has announced a plan to better protect Americans against the threat of a smallpox attack by hostile groups or governments. Under the plan, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will work with state and local governments to form volunteer smallpox response teams to provide critical services in the event of a smallpox attack. To ensure smallpox response teams are mobilized immediately in an emergency, healthcare workers and other critical personnel will be asked to volunteer to receive the smallpox vaccine. The federal government is not recommending vaccination for the general public at this time.
- X The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) conducted a meeting of the Local Agency Rapid Implementation and Action Team (LARIAT) to discuss statewide smallpox preparedness activities and provide an open forum for feedback from local health department administrators. Topics at the meeting included:
1. Post- and pre-event smallpox plans/redirection of bioterrorism funds
 2. Workers compensation and liability issues
 3. Vaccine management/delivery
 4. Vaccine administration/adverse reactions
 5. Training and education opportunities

Since its inception in 1999, LARIAT continues to conduct regular meetings to review and pilot bioterrorism preparedness and response activities. The LARIAT, whose

membership includes local health departments, was developed to promote involvement in, and improve communication and coordination with, implementation of IDPH's bioterrorism program initiatives. The LARIAT will advise IDPH on smallpox immunization program implementation issues for local health departments.

- X IDPH's Division of Infectious Diseases have completed an initial draft of the Surveillance and Epidemiology Annex to the IDPH Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Plan (BPRP). When complete, the BPRP will diagram delivery of state public health assistance to support local governments as they deal with preparedness and response to a biological terrorist incident, including establishing specific thresholds necessary to trigger an emergency response. The plan provides the framework for local health departments to utilize when developing local preparedness and response procedures and describes how and when state and federal governmental agencies will intervene. The surveillance and epidemiology annex will provide guidelines on the management of cases resulting from an act of bioterrorism or other infectious disease outbreak.

- X The IDPH's Infectious Disease Rapid Response Team (RRT) recently met to develop strategies for the role of the RRT during TOPOFF2 and to educate the team on plague as a bioterrorism agent. Other items discussed included educational materials prepared by Dr. Doug Passaro which will be used to teach IDPH staff and local health departments about plague. The RRT is a physician-led team composed of health professionals with experience in epidemiology, communicable diseases, food protection, environmental health, and laboratory diagnostics. The IDPH RRT is the designated public health

response team for Illinois and assists in the investigation of an outbreak of an infectious disease.

- X The Illinois Department of Public Health sponsored a training session conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) to provide selected state and local NPS preparedness staff with an update on the status of the NPS program and the role of federal, state and local jurisdictions. This was the first in a series of training sessions IDPH will conduct regarding the NPS.
- X The American Red Cross (ARC) National Headquarters issued guidance to chapters working with public health agencies on smallpox vaccination clinics. Specific areas of ARC involvement could include: public information dissemination, mass care support, development of family support plans, mental health services, coordination with the National Disaster Medical System for patient tracking, logistical support for facilities, training and exercises, and planning for mass fatality management.